



New York State
Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

POLICY STATEMENT

Supersedes/Updates: 84-22 Bee Sting Policy

No. 99-01

Date: 2/2/99

Re:
EMT-Basic
Assisted Medications

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**EMT-Bs ASSISTING A PATIENT IN TAKING
THEIR OWN PRE-PRESCRIBED MEDICATION(S)**

Nitroglycerin (tablet or spray), Bronchodilator (inhaler), Epinephrine (auto-injector)

Definitions:

1. Pre-prescribed medications are those medications that are prescribed for a specific patient prior to an emergency and are present at the scene of the emergency.
2. “Assisting” means delivering a patient’s pre-prescribed medication, regardless of who delivers the medication.

Procedure:

1. A certified EMT-B should deliver pre-prescribed nitroglycerin or a bronchodilator to a patient if the patient indicates (verbally, by gesture, etc.) their desire to take their medication and the delivery of such medication is not contraindicated by protocol or the EMT-B’s training. If there is any question, contact Medical Control.

[NOTE: There is no circumstance when it would be proper to deliver either nitroglycerin or a bronchodilator to a patient who can not indicate their desire to take their pre-prescribed medication. As stated, this procedure prevents an EMT-B from delivering either of these medications to an unconscious or unwilling patient. The contraindication statement is added for cases where the patient indicates their desire to take their medication but it is contraindicated.]

2. A certified EMT-B should deliver pre-prescribed Epinephrine to a patient who exhibits signs/symptoms consistent with the indications for the medication and the medication is not contraindicated by protocol or the EMT-B’s training. If there is any question, contact Medical Control.

[NOTE: There are many scenarios in which the patient may not be able to indicate their desire to take their pre-prescribed Epinephrine and the EMT-B must make the decision to do so. EMT-Bs are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and the contraindications for epinephrine. In cases of an allergic reaction, as opposed to anaphylaxis, the patient should be able to participate in the decision and the delivery of the epinephrine.]

Special Circumstances:

Experience has shown that “assisted medications” may not be labeled with the patient’s name on the container, inhaler or auto-injector carried by the patient. In this circumstance if the patient indicates a desire to take the medication, the medication has been identified as being the patient's pre-prescribed medication by a claim or an appearance (is in the patient’s pocket or purse, etc), the patient exhibits signs/symptoms consistent with the indications for the medication, the medication is not contraindicated by protocol or the EMT-B’s training, the EMT-B should assist in delivering the medication. In addition, the container, inhaler or auto-injector may not be labeled with the name of the medication. In no case should an EMT-B assist in the delivery of a medication from a container, inhaler, or auto-injector that is not labeled with the name of the medication. In cases where the label indicates that the medication is outdated, the EMT-B must contact Medical Control for direction. If there is any question, contact Medical Control.

[NOTE: Signs/symptoms and indications for the assisted medications are part of the EMT-B curriculum.]

Developed By:

New York State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Issued By:

**Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
New York State Department of Health**